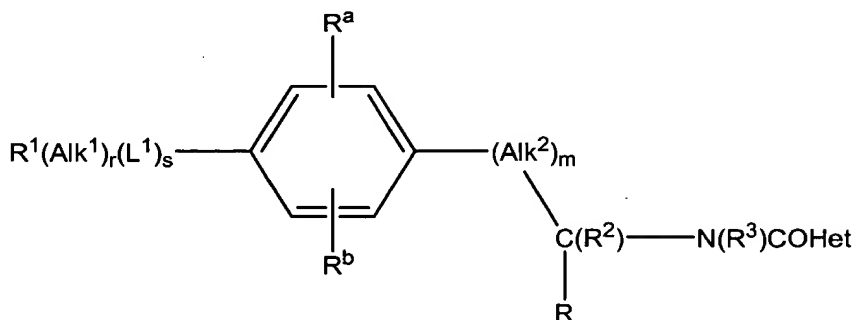


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid group or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

R^1 is C_6 - C_{12} aromatic group or a C_1 - C_9 heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three, or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen, R^1 being optionally substituted with one, two or three $-L_2(CH_2)_pL_3(R^c)_q$ atoms or groups;

Alk^1 is an ~~optionally substituted~~ aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a linker atom or group selected from the group consisting of $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(S)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^4)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^4)-$, $-CSN(R^4)-$, $-C(O)N(R^4)-$, $-N(R^4)CO-$, $-N(R^4)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^4)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^4)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^4)-$, $-N(R^4)S(O)-$, $-N(R^4)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)-$, $-N(R^4)CSN(R^4)-$, $-N(R^4)SON(R^4)-$ and $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)-$;

r and s , which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

R^a and R^b , which may be the same or different, is each an atom or group --

$L^2(CH_2)_pL^3(R^c)_q$; ~~in which~~

L^2 and L^3 is each a covalent bond,

p is zero or the integer 1,

q is an integer 1, 2 or 3, and

R^c is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from straight or branched alkyl, OR^d , $-SR^d$, $-NR^dR^e$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-CO_2R^d$, $-SO_3H$, SO_2R^d , $-OCO_2R^d$, $-CONR^dR^e$, $-OCONR^dR^e$, $-CSNR^dR^e$, $-COR^d$, $-N(R^d)COR^e$, $-N(R^d)CSR^e$, $-SO_2N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)SO_2R^e$, $-N(R^d)CONR^eR^f$, $-N(R^d)CSNR^eR^f$ or $-N(R^d)SO_2NR^eR^f$;

R^d , R^e , and R^f are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or ~~an optionally substituted~~ a straight or branched alkyl group;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or methyl group;

R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

Het is ~~an optionally substituted nine- to thirteen-membered fused-ring heteroaromatic group~~ a nine- to thirteen-membered fused-ring heteroaromatic group selected from the group consisting of benzofuryl, [2,3-dihydro]-benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzotriazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzimidazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzopyranyl, [3,4-dihydro]benzopyranyl, quinazolinyl, naphthyridinyl, pyrido[3,4-b]pyridyl, pyrido[3,2-b]pyridyl, pyrido[4,3-b]pyridyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrazolyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, and imidyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one, two or three substituents R^6 in which R^6 is $-R^{6a}$ or $-Alk^3(R^{6a})_m$, where R^{6a} is a halogen atom, amino, nitro, cyano, amidino, hydroxyl, formyl, carboxyl, esterified carboxyl, thiol, $-COR^7$, $-CSR^7$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-SO_2NHR^7$, $-SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-CONH_2$, $-CSNH_2$, $-CONHR^7$, $-CSNHR^7$, $-CON(R^7)_2$, $-CSN(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R^7$, $-N(SO_2R^7)_2$, $-NH(R^4)SO_2NH_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2NHR^7$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)COR^7$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)CSN(R^7)_2$, $-N(R^4)CSR^7$, $-N(R^4)C(O)OR^7$, $-SO_2NHet^1$, $-CONHet^1$, $-CSNHet^1$, $-N(R^4)SO_2NHet^1$, $-N(R^4)CONHet^1$, $-N(R^4)CSNHet^1$, $-SO_2N(R^4)Het^2$, $-CON(R^4)Het^2$, $-CSN(R^4)Het^2$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)Het^2$, $-N(R^4)CSN(R^4)Het^2$, aryl or heteroaryl group;

$-NHet^1$ is a C_{5-7} cyclicamino group optionally additionally containing one or more -O- or -S- atoms or $-N(R^4)-$, $-C(O)-$ or $-C(S)-$ groups;

Het^2 is a monocyclic C_{5-7} carbocyclic group optionally containing one or more -O- or -S- atoms or $-N(R^4)-$, $-C(O)-$ or $-C(S)-$ groups;

R^7 is an $-Alk^3(R^{6a})_m$, aryl or heteroaryl,

Alk^3 is a straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene or C_{2-6} alkynylene chain, optionally interrupted by one, two or three -O- or -S- atoms or $-S(O)_n$, or $-N(R^8)-$ groups;

R^8 is a hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl;

n is an integer 1 or 2,

m is zero or an integer 1, 2 or 3;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, and N-oxides thereof.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The compound of Claim 1 wherein R is a $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ group.

5. (previously presented) The compound of Claim 1 wherein Alk^2 is a $--\text{CH}_2--$ chain and m is the integer 1.

6. (previously presented) The compound of Claim 1 wherein each of R^2 and R^3 is a hydrogen atom.

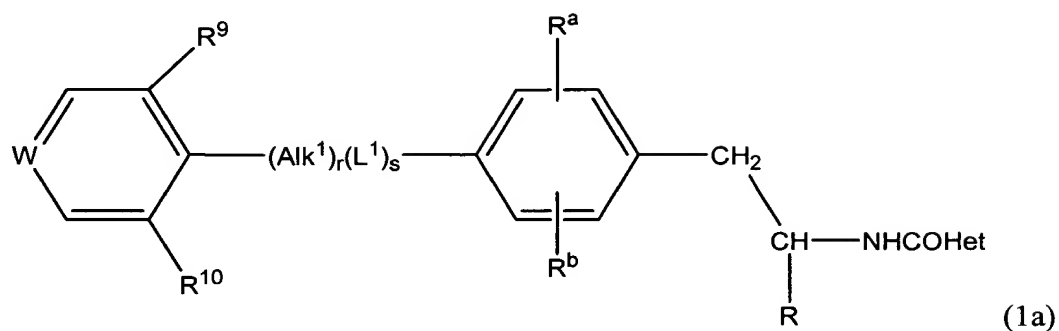
7. (canceled)

8 (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is an ~~optionally substituted~~ phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrimidinyl group, each of which can be optionally substituted with one, two or three $-\text{L}_2(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{L}_3(\text{R}^c)_q$ atoms or groups.

9. (previously presented) The compound of Claim 1 wherein $-(\text{Alk}^1)_r(\text{L}^1)_s$ is a $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, or $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^4)$ group.

10. (previously presented) The compound of Claim 9 wherein $-(\text{Alk}^1)_r(\text{L}^1)_s$ is a $-\text{CONH}$ group.

11 (previously presented) The compound of Claim 1 which has the formula (1a):



wherein $-W=$ is $-CH=$ or $-N=$, R^9 and R^{10} , which may be the same or different is each a $-L^2(CH_2)_pL^3(R^c)_q$ atom or group, and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

12-13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.